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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 3, 1997, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, JUNE 2, 1997

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Gracious Father, the Rock of Ages who gives us an unchanging source of stability and strength, You are our security in the ups and downs of life. You have placed a homing spirit in us that makes us restless to return to You in prayer. You are everything to us: Light in the darkness of our doubts, nourishment for our spiritual hungers, peace in our pressures, guidance in our confusion, hope when we feel helpless, healing of the hurts of our lives.

Lord, we are moved by Your majesty and motivated by the magnitude of the responsibilities You have entrusted to us. We often express our trust in You, but today we are stunned by the trust You express in us. It is awesome to realize the confidence You put in the women and men of this Senate and those who work with them. May their humility match Your willingness to help, their dependence equal Your dynamic power.

Lord, we return to the work of this Senate creatively carefree. You have called us, You have promised to give us wisdom, and You have assured us that You will never let us down or never leave us; that You will never give us more to do than we can do with Your power. So we commit to You all that we have and are to realize Your very best for this Nation. In the name of our Lord and Savior. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader, Senator LOTT of Mississippi, is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Chaplain, for your wonderful opening prayer. We appreciate it, as always.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SENATOR THURMOND

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, since this is the first time I have seen the distinguished Senator from South Carolina since it has been official, I want to congratulate him, as all Americans do, on the record you have set. We are very proud of you. And I want to say that I enjoyed seeing you on television when we were home, too.

It is a magnificent record, and you are a magnificent human being.

We look forward to commending you further later on this week, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Thank you for your kind remarks.

Mr. LOTT. Thank you, Mr. President.

WELCOME BACK

Mr. LOTT. Welcome back, all of you. I hope that you are all rested and recharged physically and in spirit because we do have a little work that we need to get done this week.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, the Senate will be in session today for a period of

morning business to give Senators an opportunity to speak.

At 2:30 the Senate will resume consideration of S. 4, the Family Friendly Workplace Act. I encourage any Senator who intends to offer an amendment to this legislation to be prepared to offer the amendment during today's session. Any votes ordered on amendments offered today will be set aside with the possibility of votes occurring on those amendments after 5 p.m. today.

In addition, a cloture motion on S. 4 will be filed today. Therefore, the Senate can expect a vote on cloture on S. 4 to occur on Wednesday morning.

As a reminder to all Senators, tomorrow from 9:30 until 12:30 a.m. the Senate will honor the services of our President pro tempore, Senator THURMOND, the longest serving Member of the Senate. I encourage all Senators to participate in this important tribute on Tuesday morning.

For the remainder of the week Senators can anticipate Senate action on the concurrent budget resolution, the supplemental appropriations conference report, and possibly the adoption of legislation.

As Members are aware, this is the first week of a 4-week legislative period prior to the Fourth of July recess. The Senate has a number of important issues which need to be considered prior to that next recess. We anticipate action on the budget reconciliation bills, both on the spending side and the tax cut bill.

The DOD authorization should be ready, and the chairman of the committee has asked that we try to reserve

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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time in the latter part of June to do that, if at all possible.

Product liability legislation is pending, as well as various appropriations bills, including the legislative branch, foreign ops, and Treasury-Postal Service as they become available.

So we are looking at those three appropriations bills that we would like to be able to finish in the Senate before we go out for the Fourth of July recess.

As all Members know, this is not an exclusive list that the Senate may consider. There are other issues that are pending legislatively and executive matters as they are cleared. For instance, I understand the national missile defense legislation has cleared the Armed Services Committee. That is an issue that we may be able to take up before the Fourth of July period.

Therefore, I encourage all Members to adjust their schedules for a busy month of Senate work. That could very well include some votes on Monday afternoons late and evenings on Friday. But later on this week, probably tomorrow, we will try to give Senators some clear idea of what Mondays and Fridays they should expect to be in session. At a minimum, the Friday that we are scheduled to go out for the Fourth of July recess—that would be Friday, June 27—is clearly one that we will likely have to be in session to complete our work on reconciliation bills.

MEASURE READ FOR THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 867

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I understand that H.R. 867 has arrived from the House.

I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DEWINE). The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 867) to promote the adoption of children in foster care.

Mr. LOTT. I now ask for its second reading and will object to my own request in behalf of the other side of the aisle.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO BILL SHIELDS OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, it is privilege to take this opportunity to commend Superintendent Bill Shields for his 32 years of distinguished leadership in the National Park Service. His service has been renowned in many different aspects of the park system, and every region of the country is in his debt.

One of the biggest challenges Bill has faced has been managing national parks in urban settings. In fact, Bill spent the majority of his career in urban park environments, and he has met special needs of these parks with great skill, wisdom, and understanding. As superintendent of Rock Creek Park,

he had jurisdiction over 95 separate local parks which are prized by communities throughout the Washington area. He has skillfully balanced the needs of the parks with the needs of the general public and park neighborhoods. With parks such as Meridian Hill and Montrose and Dumbarton Oaks, he has dealt with many complex issues with diplomacy and exceptional judgment.

Bill Shield's retirement after 32 years with the Park Service will be a great loss. But because of his guidance and leadership, many parks in the Nation, and especially in the Nation's Capital, will be enhanced and preserved for future generations.

EXTENSION OF TIME FOR MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that morning business be extended until 2:30 p.m. today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. I have no further requests at this time.

I observe the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. In my capacity as a Senator from the State of Ohio, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senate will stand in recess until 2:30 p.m.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:48 p.m., recessed until 2:30 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer [Mr. ROBERTS].

FAMILY FRIENDLY WORKPLACE ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume consideration of S. 4, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4) to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide to private sector employees the same opportunities for time-and-a-half compensatory time off, bi-weekly work programs, and flexible credit hour programs as Federal employees currently enjoy to help balance the demands and needs of work and family, to clarify the provisions relating to exemptions of certain professionals from the minimum wage and overtime requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri is recognized.

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I am pleased to have the opportunity to stand and speak on behalf of the Family Friendly Workplace Act. It is a way of helping people resolve tensions that

exist between the home place and the workplace. Most American families encounter two basic tensions. One is the tension that is financial, that drives both adults in the family, if there are two adults in the family, into the workplace; certainly if there is only one adult in the family, that one adult has tremendous pressure to be in the workplace. The other pressure which exists for most American families is the social pressure that comes when you have all of the adults in the family in the workplace. You have tension between the workplace and the home place.

How in the world are we going to be able to meet the needs of the home, when people are not at home when they are needed the most—particularly when there are times when their presence is very, very important. For example, when someone is getting an award, or when someone needs to speak to the counselor or with a teacher at school, or when someone needs to go to the doctor. Most families understand that when you have this kind of a need you should have the opportunity to be away from work. If both adults in the family are involved in the workplace it makes it very tough to do.

There are times when certain conditions will justify the use of what is known as family and medical leave. The Family and Medical Leave Act was passed by the U.S. Congress and it allows people to take time off without pay. But I have found in my family, and I am sure most Americans have found as well that when you take your child to the doctor, that is not a time when you can go without pay. That is a time when you actually need all the resources you can get. To put people in the position of having to take a pay cut in order to go see the teacher about a problem at school or to watch the student get an award at school or to be able to take a child to the doctor—to ask a parent to take a pay cut in a setting like that is to make a parent make a choice that we should not be asking a parent to make.

Fortunately, there already exists in this culture a clear model of a system that can work, that works effectively and works very well. It is in the Federal Government. Legally, all Federal employees have the ability to have what is called flexible working arrangements. They can take time off with pay later if they have earned that time off by working more hours earlier. They can arrange their schedule to work a couple hours extra one week and take a couple hours off the next week. As a matter of fact, Federal workers have the ability to take advantage of the scheduling option which allows them to work 45 hours one week, 35 hours the next week. That way they have every other Friday off. Of course, that is really a tremendous boon to people who need to be able to do things during the normal working hours, whether it is to go to the motor vehicle registration place to get the